Page 2, lines 13-14, delete "since is" and insert --due to the--; lines 14-15, delete "is great the" and insert --the high--.

Page 4, before line 9, insert the following heading:

-- Summary of the Invention --.

Page 9, before line 14, insert the heading:

--Brief Description of the Drawing--;

Page 10, before line 1, insert the heading:

-- Detailed Description --;

Page 10, line 14, change "splitin" to --split in --.

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) A method for the protected management of a unit counter in an electrically erasable and programmable memory, according to which the number of units consumed by users is recorded by means of a counter, [characterised in that it consists in breaking down] comprising the following steps:

dividing the unit counter into at least two memory areas; [(A, B), a first area (A) in which]

storing at least one bit [is stored] per at least one consumed unit into a first memory area; [and a second area (B) in which the]